

(Drake, Daniel)

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PHYSIOLOGICAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

OF THE

MEDICAL INSTITUTE

OF

LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

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1842.

PLATE 1

THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY

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FIRST
ANNUAL BULLETIN
OF THE
PHYSIOLOGICAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

ON the twenty-third of December, 1841, Professor DRAKE presented to the Medical Class the following Constitution, which was immediately subscribed by seventy students, and subsequently by sixty-seven others, making six more than half the Class. Their names will be found on a subsequent page.

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, a great variety of maladies, affecting both body and mind, are produced by the intemperate use of Alcoholic drinks; and *whereas*, it is the duty of Physicians to labor for the prevention, not less than the cure of diseases: Therefore, we, the undersigned, Managers, Professors, Graduates, Under Graduates, and other Pupils of the Medical Institute of Louisville, with all others of the same classes of persons who may hereafter unite with us, agree to constitute ourselves into an Association under the name and title of the *Physiological Temperance Society*, and to be governed by the following articles—

ART. I. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and such others as may be found necessary, who shall be elected annually, at the first or second meeting in November, and hold their places until their successors are chosen.

ART. II. The first meeting of every year, shall be held on the Saturday succeeding the first Monday in November, at eight o'clock, P. M., in the Hall of the Institute, and the regular meetings shall be every fortnight afterwards till the end of the following February; all of which meetings shall be public.

ART. III. The objects of this Society shall be the suppression of intemperance and the correction of its effects, by an investigation of its causes, consequences and remedies, on physiological and pathological principles; in which investigation, may also be included other stimulants and narcotics than Alcohol.

ART. IV. The exercises of the Society shall consist in the reading of papers, in addresses and discussions, on the subjects mentioned in the preceding article, of which, such shall be published as the Society shall direct.

ART. V. An Orator shall be appointed for every year, who shall, on the Thursday preceding Christmas day, deliver an Anniversary Oration.

ART. VI. As a method of bearing testimony against the pernicious effects of Alcoholic drinks, all who subscribe this Constitution, acknowledge themselves to have come under a solemn obligation, not to use as a beverage, any intoxicating drinks for the next five years after recording their names; and any member known to violate this article shall be obnoxious to expulsion.

ART. VII. Each member shall be entitled to a certificate of membership, signed by the President and Recording Secretary.

ART. VIII. The Constitution may be amended by the concurrence of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting; the proposition having laid over for a fortnight.

Meeting of Saturday Evening, January 1, 1842.

Vice President, Dr. KENNEDY, in the Chair.

This evening, Professor Drake delivered a lecture on the general objects of the Society, in which he indicated the various heads under which they may be classed, and enforced their claims on the attention of the Chemist, Physiologist, Physician, Moralist, Theologian and Jurist. He dwelt on the necessity of making the effects of Alcoholic drinks, and other narcotic stimulants, a special study; and insisted that teachers and practitioners of medicine might do more than any other class of men, in limiting their use, and preventing the disorders of body and mind, which flow from excessive indulgence.

Stated Meeting, Saturday Evening, January 15.

The President, Prof. DRAKE, in the Chair.

The lecture, this evening, was by Professor Yandell, in which he gave the history and chemical composition of Alcohol; its relative proportions in the various kinds of distilled and fermented drinks; its uses in the arts and sciences; its influence on the living body.

and an account of the varieties of morbid action produced by the different beverages of which it is the active ingredient.

As useful for reference by the members of the Society, the following table introduced into his lecture, from Mr. Brande, is here published.

A TABLE

From Brande's Chemistry, exhibiting the proportion of Alcohol, by measure, existing in 100 parts of several kinds of wine and other liquors.

Proportion of Spirit per cent. by measure.

Brandy	53.39	Claret, least average, . . .	12.91
Rum	53.68	Malmsey Madeira	16.40
Gin	51.60	Burgundy	16.60
Scotch Whiskey	54.32	Hock	14.37
Irish do.	53.90	Champaign, still	13.80
Port Wine, strongest	25.83	Do. sparkling	12.80
Do. weakest	19.00	Tokay	9.88
Madeira, strongest	24.42	Elder Wine	8.79
Do. weakest	19.24	Cider, highest average	9.87
Currant Wine	20.55	Do. lowest do.	5.21
Sherry	19.81	Mead	7.32
Tenneriffa	19.79	Ale, Barton,	8.88
Constantia, white	19.75	Ditto, Edingburgh	6.20
Do. red	18.92	Brown Stout	6.80
Malaga	18.94	London Porter, average,	4.20
Claret, highest average,	17.11	Do. Small Beer	1.28

Special Meeting, Saturday Evening, January 22.

Mr. CLARK, Vice President, in the Chair.

It was resolved to apply to the General Assembly for a charter, and the officers of the Society were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

The same Committee were instructed to report the form of a diploma or certificate of membership, and a device and motto for a seal.

It was also resolved to have a Valedictory Address at the end of the Session, and Mr. Hugh Rodman, of Kentucky, was unanimously chosen to deliver it.

Stated Meeting, Saturday Evening, January 29.

Dr. KENNEDY, Vice President in the Chair.

The Committee reported the following form of a diploma, which was adopted, and ordered to be lithographed.

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP.

Physiological Temperance Society of the Medical Institute of Louisville.

Organized December 23rd, 1841.

Be it known by all to whom these presents may come, greeting: That _____, of the State of _____, on the _____ day of _____ 18____, was elected a member of the Physiological Temperance Society of the Medical Institute of Louisville, established to investigate the causes, consequences and remedies of intemperance in the use of Alcoholic drinks and other Narcotic stimulants; and that every member is bound to refrain from intoxicating beverages for five years after subscribing this Constitution.

In testimony whereof, the seal of said Society is hereunto annexed, in the City of Louisville, and State of Kentucky, this _____ of _____, 18____.

_____ President.

_____ Recording Secretary.

It was resolved, that a Committee of five be appointed to prepare a report on the duty of the medical profession, in reference to intemperance: whereupon, the Chair nominated Professor Drake, and Messrs. A. Moore of Alabama, E. W. Horrell of Missouri; A. Adams of Ohio, and J. B. Lindsley of Tennessee.

These items of business being transacted, Professor DRAKE proceeded to address the Society on the diseases of body produced by intemperance. He first analyzed the phenomena of a fit of drunkenness, and pointed out the various ways in which it might prove fatal, and in what respect it becomes interesting to the medical jurist. He then took up, *seriatim*, the different diseases produced by habitual drinking, and presented their symptoms and pathological anatomy; as an introduction to which, he insisted particularly on the following propositions:—

1. Intemperance is more fatal to young men, than to those who

begin to drink after the constitution has the firmness which belongs to middle life.

2. It destroys females more certainly and in a shorter time than males.

3. It generates a peculiar kind of morbid constitutional diathesis, *cachexia temulenta*, which diminishes the *vis conservatrix* of the system, and favors the fatal influence of many other causes.

4. All the disastrous effects of chronic intemperance, may result from habitual drinking, never carried to the point of intoxication.

The Professor concluded by giving notice that, at the next stated meeting of the Society, he would deliver a lecture on the disordered manifestations of mind produced by intemperance.

Special Meeting, February 2.

Mr. CLARK, Vice President, in the Chair.

The Committee on the Seal reported a FOUNTAIN gushing from a ROCK, surrounded by the motto—BIBE UT SOSPITERE—which was adopted, and ordered to be engraved.

The same Committee were ordered to make a report on the propriety of publishing the proceedings of the Society.

Stated Meeting, Saturday, February 12.

Mr. ROE, Vice President, in the Chair.

It was resolved, that the last meeting of the Society, for the present session of the Institute, shall be on Saturday evening, the 19th inst., when the Society will expect the Valedictory Address of Mr. Rodman.

The lecture this evening, according to the annunciation at the last stated meeting, was by Professor Drake, on the *Moral and Intellectual Disorders produced by Intemperance*. The Professor pointed out, that the functions of the mind are manifested by the instrumentality of the nervous system; that Alcohol exerts on that system a specific effect; that this effect, except when minute doses are taken, is of a perverting kind, and consequently, that the senses and the intellectual and moral functions never fail to become disordered by a life of intemperance. After giving a detailed account of the morbid sensibilities and sensations generated in each of the organs of sense, more especially those of feeling, vision and hearing, he proceeded to show that the bodily desires and animal passions are inflamed and rendered unmanageable by Alcoholic stimulation, while all the elevated and virtuous feelings and sentiments of the soul are depraved and reduced in their influence. Proceeding thence to the intellectual functions, he dwelt upon the consequences of a disordered state of the external senses, in supplying the mind with false data; and, in turn, on the creations of a morbid imagination, and a localizing of them in the organs of sense. Hence the origin of false judgments, and faith in what has no existence—in other words, actual insanity, known by the names of *mania a potu*, and *delirium tremens*. Of this aberration of mind, it was stated—

1. That it is distinguishable, without difficulty, from that which is present in a fit of intoxication, and often comes on several days after the individual has ceased to drink.
2. That it is generally but of a few days' duration, but if the patient had a hereditary predisposition to mania, it may become permanent.
3. That it may occur in those who have never carried their drinking to intoxication.
4. That the disordered condition of the senses, and the occasionally morbid imagination, which, in various degrees, are present in the habitual drinker, even when actual derangement is yet distant, should invalidate his credibility, especially as a judicial witness.
5. That *mania a potu* deserves more attention from the medicolawyer than it has yet received.

Special Meeting, February 14th.

Mr. HOLMES, Vice President, in the Chair.

The Committee, charged with the subject, reported in favor of publishing the proceedings of the Society for the present session, and annually thereafter—accompanying their recommendation with a by law, constituting the Officers of the Society a Publishing Committee. They also reported in favor of commencing the formation of a library of books relating to the objects of the Society: both of which reports were adopted.

The same Committee reported a by law providing for the election from time to time, as honorary members of the Society, of gentlemen known as the active advocates of temperance, and distinguished for intelligence, integrity and influence: which was likewise adopted.

The Committee appointed to report how far the promotion of temperance should be regarded as a professional duty, offered the following, which was adopted and ordered to be published.

REPORT:

Extensive as may be the use of liquors rendered stimulating with Alcohol, and intimately as they may be blended with our food, and the various innocent condiments, with which we stimulate ourselves, there is not, in the opinion of your Committee, the smallest necessity for their use as beverages. They impart no nourishment, and the excitement which they raise, is not only transient beyond that of many other stimulants, but followed by a degree of exhaustion, which more than counterbalances their exciting effects. Those effects, moreover, are chiefly found in the bodily desires and lower passions of the mind, and do not, therefore, prepare the individual for his duties, but on the contrary incapacitate him for them; which is equally true of labors which require strength of muscle, acuteness of bodily sensibility, soundness of judgement, or tranquillity of feeling.

Nor does the habitual use of Alcoholic beverages ward off any form of disease. Your Committee might, but will not, insist, that there is *no* epidemic, in which these beverages would be preventive; but they fearlessly affirm, that if there be such, the individual who has been rigidly abstinent, up to the time when he begins their

use for that purpose, will be far more likely to be benefitted, than he who has habitually drunk them. To the strictly temperate, they would be medicines, and might, under proper circumstances, be preventives. There are, then, no physical reasons for the habitual use of Alcoholic drinks.

Let us proceed to inquire whether there be physiological objections to their use; in other words, whether they occasion diseases.

1. An agent of such great activity as Alcohol, cannot be used in large quantities, without injury to health. If the excessive use of the *supporters* of life, such as food, or warmth, or air with an over proportion of oxygen, be prejudicial to health, it will be admitted, that an agent which does not, in any manner or degree, contribute to nourish the body, and is still capable of exerting on it a powerful effect, must, if used in large quantities, prove a poison. Your Committee are willing to grant, that in smaller quantities, which they cannot undertake to define, Alcohol may not disorder the functions. But they concur with universal experience, when they declare, that in the use of this, as well as other narcotic stimulants, there is a constantly increasing demand by the constitution; that this demand is much more importunate in some temperaments than others; that it is strictly physical; that in proportion as it increases, the will and moral powers of the individual are weakened; and, therefore, that the danger is imminent, that the person who begins with the temperate, will end with the intemperate use of whatever alcoholic beverage he may select. The diseases generated by this excess are various, according to the variety of drink, the age and temperament of the individual, his occupation, and the circumstances which surround him. Those which your Committee have most frequently observed in this country, are inflammation of the liver, followed by jaundice and dropsy; inflammation and ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines, with obstinate diarrhœa; vomiting, hawking and pyrosis in the morning, and in advanced cases, almost total loss of appetite; obstinate rheumatic inflammation, and occasionally gout; a mild bronchitis with cough, accompanied with a dirty, mucous expectoration, and an offensive breath; chronic inflammation of the eyes, with puriform discharge; nettle rash and leprosy; inflammation of the brain; epileptic convulsions; tremors and debility of the muscles; palsy of some of the muscles of the face, or one of the limbs, or of one side of the body; apoplexy; death.

Not wishing to present what might seem to be an exaggerated picture, your Committee forbear to extend this dark catalogue, leaving each member of the Society to add to it the results of his own future observation.

2. When none of the diseases, just enumerated, are developed, the abuse of intoxicating drinks very often creates a constitutional lesion or distemperature, which renders wounds and other injuries, and noxious impressions of various kinds, dangerous beyond what they would be under other circumstances. Thus a slight injury has sometimes led to uncontrollable and fatal inflammation and gangrene, in those who drank to excess; and no discreet surgeon would choose to perform an important operation, on an individual who was habitually intemperate.

3. Intemperance multiplies diseases and shortens human life, by the exposure to which the intemperate are subject—1st, to mechanical accidents of various kinds—2nd, to the burning sun, producing *coup de soleil*—3rd, to severe cold, occasioning

the loss of parts of their extremities, frequently of life itself—4th, to neglect of personal cleanliness, causing a filthy and pedicular state of the skin—5th, to various vices, which become causes of disease. Thus drunkenness is the indirect cause of as many diseases, as are directly produced by it.

But the ravages of intemperance are not limited to the body, for through it, they are propagated to the mind. Sleeplessness, disordered hearing, seeing and feeling; reverie; delirium; monomania, and general madness, ending in fatuity, and leading to suicide or murder, are among the legitimate and melancholy effects Alcoholic intemperance demands, then, the interference and aid of the medical profession; and, in the opinion of your Committee, is not unworthy of deep and anxious attention. It would be superfluous for your Committee to affirm, that the duty of laboring to prevent or avert diseases, is one of which no medical man can divest himself. But, still further, every profession, as an aggregate body, lies under some peculiar responsibilities of benevolence, and in its corporate capacity, should prosecute them as public enterprises; and that assumed by our Society, your Committee regard as of this kind, and hope it will be so regarded by the profession at large. It only remains, then, to consider what can be done. 1. The members of the Society, and of the profession generally, may accomplish a great deal by instruction, admonition and warning, put forth while mingling with the people in their daily exercises of duty. 2. They may exert themselves in practice, co-operating with those who benevolently labor to suppress intemperance; and in fact exerting, if they choose, a more diffusive and salutary influence than any other class of men, because of their superior knowledge of the subject, and the confidence which the community at large repose in them, on a subject so strictly professional. 3. They may sometimes make, with the consent and even at the request of the intemperate, such administrations as will raise a disgust at alcoholic stimulants; they may supply excitements of a different kind to those who would seek substitutes; they may assure the deeply besotted, that they need not apprehend death from an instant discontinuance—and when such discontinuance is commenced, they may prescribe for the relief of the symptoms which arise from it. 5: and lastly. They may refrain from drinking themselves, thus giving authority to their precepts and efficacy to their exhortation. Their salutary example would surpass, in its influence, that of any other class of men, while they would preserve themselves from intemperance, and redeem their profession from the opprobrium under which it has rested since it first had an existence in the West.

Your Committee know, from observation and report, and are most happy to testify, that intemperance is much less prevalent in our profession than it was thirty years ago; and they believe, that diminished drinking by physicians, is one of the causes of diminished drinking by the people; but there is both room and necessity for further reform on this point, and your Committee indulge the hope, that the present and still more the future labors of our Society, will be influential in its promotion.

DANIEL DRAKE,	}	Committee.
ALFRED MOORE.		
J. BERRIEN LINDSLEY,		
ALFRED ADAMS,		
E. W. HORRELL,	}	

Special Meeting, February 15.

Mr. CLARK, Vice President, in the Chair.

On the nomination of Professors Drake and Yandell, the following gentlemen were elected Honorary Members of the Society:—

Col. *James Davidson*, President of the Washington Temperance Society of the State of Kentucky, Frankfort.

Rev. *John C. Young*, D. D. President of Centre College, Ky.

Rev. *Philip Lindsley*, D. D. President of the University of Nashville, Tennessee.

Edward H. Barton, M. D. New Orleans.

Bellamy Storer, Esq. Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. *Lyman Beecher*, D. D. President of Lane Theological Seminary, Ohio.

Rev. *Wm. H. McGuffey*, L. L. D. President of Ohio University, Athens,

John Bell, M. D. Philadelphia.

Rev. *Robert Baird*, of Philadelphia, European Agent of the American Temperance Society.

Rev. *Heman Humphrey*, D. D. President of Amherst College, Massachusetts,

Mr. *Edward C. Delavan*, Ballston, New York,

Special Meeting, Saturday Evening, February 19.

Mr. CLARK, Vice President, in the Chair.

Professor Drake, President, from the Committee of Publication, proposed, that two articles should be added to the proceedings of the Society, one on the subject of the library, the other on the collection of manuscript information, relating to the objects of the Society, which proposal was agreed to, and the following ordered to be printed.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Having commenced the formation of a library of works on intemperance, the Society respectfully solicits of authors, publishers,

and all other persons—books, lectures, discourses, orations, addresses and reports. It is desirous, also, to obtain publications on the effects of opium, tobacco, and other narcotic stimulants. Such as are usually transmitted by mail, may be forwarded through that channel, others by private hand as opportunity may offer. The whole to be directed—"Physiological Temperance Society of the Medical Institute of Louisville, Kentucky."

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Intending to make a publication of its proceedings, annually, the Society is desirous of receiving original communications, of every kind, falling within its purview. Long as intemperance has prevailed in the world, the materials for its history are still imperfect, leaving ample opportunity for further observation and experiment. Our familiarity from childhood, with drunkenness, is one of the causes, why our observations, as professional men, have not been so full and accurate as on many other forms of disease. The present wide spreading conviction, that alcoholic drinks are not only unnecessary but pernicious; in short that their effects are morbid, will turn both the profession and the people, to a closer study of them as diseased states; and thus many new facts may be brought to light. All communications of this kind should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary of the Society.

TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION.

The Secretary then read a communication from the *Washington Temperance Society of Louisville*, inviting this Society to join in a public procession on the 22d inst.—whereupon, the Secretary was ordered to return the thanks of this Society.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

The President now took the Chair, and called for the order of the evening—Mr. Rodman's Valedictory Address, which that gentleman proceeded to deliver.

In this discourse, the orator made a rapid historical survey of alcoholic intemperance, referring to its relative prevalence among different nations; in which he condemned, in an appropriate manner, the praises of wine and other intoxicating drinks, which are found

incorporated with their literature; regarding them as having contributed to the spread and perpetuation of intemperance; while they manifestly indicated the prevalence of vice. He then spoke, in general terms, of the disordered states of body and mind produced by alcohol, and concluded with an impressive exhortation to the members of the Society, to refrain entirely from its use, as the only certain method of preserving themselves from contamination.

The address being concluded, Professor Yandell moved a vote of thanks to its author, which was carried unanimously.

The President then addressed to the members a few words of parting advice, when the Society adjourned, till 8 o'clock P. M. on the Saturday succeeding the first Monday of next November.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE FIRST SESSION—1841-2.

PRESIDENT.

DANIEL DRAKE, M. D.

Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Clinical Medicine, in the
Louisville Medical Institute.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

THOMAS J. KENNEDY, M. D. of Tennessee.

COURTENAY J. CLARK, of Alabama.

HENRY J. HOLMES, of Mississippi.

EDWARD R. ROE, of Indiana.

RECORDING AND CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

THOMAS BOHANNAN, of Louisville.

TREASURER.

JAMES F. BULL, of Louisville.

MEMBERS AT THE END OF THE SESSION—1841-2

KENTUCKY.

L. P. Yandell, M. D. Prof. Med.
Inst. of Louisville, Ky.

L. H. Reynolds.

John Hagan,

L. H. Baker.

Joseph H. Day.

E. P. Spurrier.

R. C. Slaughter.

KENTUCKY.

N. L. Porter.

W. A. Hickman.

James Fontaine.

C. F. Wilson.

William Stapp.

James Bassett.

E. L. Grant.

Green G. Boyle.

W. P. Fisher.
 J. W. Gorin.
 Alexander H. Posey.
 R. J. Foster.
 Richard F. Pollard.
 S. G. Scott.
 Robert V. Sprowl.
 B. A. Wheat.
 V. M. Morrison.
 E. O. Bell.
 A. Evans.
 G. C. Comstock.
 J. Drane.
 E. O. Brown.
 C. F. Violet.
 Hugh Rodman.
 Haden Wills.
 Le Roy P. Sale.
 R. H. Woolfolk.
 George Curtis.
 A. S. St. Clair.
 William F. Miller.
 P. C. Ellis.
 Jonathan J. Taylor.
 David W. Yandell.
 Michael O'Hara, Janitor.
 J. C. Green.

MISSOURI.

E. W. Horrell.
 W. D. Pinkston.
 John C. Wells.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Alexander J. Mullen.
 B. F. Shumard.

LOUISIANA.

J. A. Williams.

TENNESSEE.

L. V. Young.
 James Burnett.
 H. Reid.
 John H. Saunders.
 George T. Pursley.
 J. B. Lindsley.
 R. H. McGaughey.

John G. Lowry.
 Robert S. Wendell.
 James E. Manson.
 G. W. Wilkerson.
 W. B. Langley.
 J. W. Brigham.
 S. W. Shaw.
 Samuel Henderson.
 William T. Bennett.
 B. H. Eddins.
 William B. Collins.
 J. A. Baird.
 John E. B. Robertson.
 Richard C. Gardner.
 J. J. McGee.
 R. W. Carnes.
 William B. McAlister.
 Ormond Knox.
 John D. Bellah.
 Joseph D. Mason.
 Samuel M. Mitchell.
 Isaac Davidson.
 A. W. Nelson.
 James Gower.
 O. M. Wozencraft.
 John P. Smith.
 E. P. Rucker.
 N. E. Hazard.
 J. T. Richardson.
 J. S. Burford.
 O. S. Galbraith.

MISSISSIPPI.

B. F. Liddon.
 William Dowsing.
 James B. Ellis.
 A. R. Lane.
 W. J. Wrenn.
 W. H. Cooke.
 W. E. McCarley.
 John B. Scott.
 Thos. Isom, M. D.
 John M. Meek.
 T. J. Henderson.
 R. J. Swearingen.
 Wm. M. Yandell.
 Elias Winecoff.

TEXAS.

Thos. F. Titus.

ALABAMA.

W. G. Gill.

Alfred Moore.

Alfred S. Johnson.

Saml. H. Estill.

William A. Noel.

D. Shelby.

Peter C. Woods.

J. W. Sullivan.

George M. Harris.

J. C. P. Hammond.

Milton P. Harrison.

J. R. Bedford.

John W. Burford.

Thos. D. Simms.

John Moore.

OHIO.

Thos. B. Johnston.

R. R. Town.

Albert Douglas.

Alfred Adams.

C. Jones.

John O'Ferrall.

E. B. Wright.

George A. Wilson.

INDIANA.

D. K. Hays.

Charles S. Weaver.

James C. Welborn.

R. M. Dougherty.

S. Jackson.

A. M. Jones.

ILLINOIS.

Charles Packard.

GEORGIA.

Jos. J. J. Caldwell.

VIRGINIA.

Thos. M. Harris.